GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5336
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
BAN ON INDIAN RICE BY RUSSIA
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual export of rice from India to Russia during the last three years;

(b) whether Russia has recently banned import of rice from India;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Indian rice imported by Russia contain pesticide more than the prescribed limit;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this issue has been discussed at the Government level;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) Details of export of rice from India to Russia during the last three years are :

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Qty : MTs	Val : Rs Lakhs	Qty : MTs	Val : Rs Lakhs	Qty : MTs	Val : Rs Lakhs
Basmati	206.73	76.65	94.42	38.96	179.20	70.96
Non Bas	74952.40	5572.59	3769.02	458.63	24776.34	2805.54
TOTAL	75159.13	5649.24	3863.44	407.59	24955.54	2876.50

Source : DGCIS

b) & c) Yes Sir. The Russian Agency on Veterinary & Phytosanitary Surveillance (ROSSELKHOZNADZOR) issued a notification on 27th April, 2007 imposing a ban on import of Rice from India to Russia due to the purported detection of pesticides.

d) & e) The Russian side has stated the cause as detection of dimethoate, which is not admissible under Russian regulations.

f) to h) Yes Sir. Earlier on 4/12/2006, Russian Agency on Veterinary & Phytosanitary Surveillance (ROSSELKHOZNADZOR) issued a press release announcing a suspension on import of rice from Thailand , Vietnam, Sri Lanka , USA including India due to the purported detection of pesticides.

As a result of efforts made by the Government of India to revoke the announced suspension, a delegation from the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation (FSVPSRF) visited India during 19th to 24th February, 2007 . At the end of the visit, a protocol was negotiated which has now been signed by both the sides.

However the ban imposed recently with effect from 1.5.2007 is violative of the Protocol and the Government of India is taking up the matter with the Russian authorities.